

All Israel Will Be Saved

Romans 11:25-32

25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; 27 For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins." 28 Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, 31 even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. 32 For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.

God's setting Israel aside not only is partial and passing but also purposeful. God temporarily set aside His chosen people in order to bring salvation to the Gentiles (11:11b), to make Israel jealous of them (v. 11c) so they would yearn to receive the blessings of the Messiah they had rejected, and thereby be used to bring blessing to the rest of the world (vv. 12-15). But God's ultimate, overriding purpose is to glorify Himself. *John MacArthur, MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Romans 9-16, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1994), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 124.*

Paul seems to go over this again and again but each time he gets more specific.

God set aside the Jews when they rejected Jesus as their Messiah. He then gave grace to the Gentiles and brought them into the kingdom.

But Paul has a deep desire for his kinsmen according to the flesh, for Israel.

He has already explained all of this but he wants both Jews and Gentiles to know that God is operating according to a plan. A plan that God made before He made the world.

That is how big of a God our God is.

And Paul wants them to know that God's actions are not settled yet but that there is coming a day when He will turn back to Israel and will fulfill the purpose He had for them from the beginning.

And it doing so, God will fulfill all the unfulfilled promises that He made to Abraham so long ago.

- I. The hardening of Israel was partial not total.
 - A. We have seen this already as Paul was from Israel and yet was a believer.
 - B. As he has told us previously there has always been a remnant according to the election of grace. Romans 11:5
 - C. So then there is now and always was and until the end a remnant of Israel that will believe.
- II. The hardening of Israel was temporary not final.

- A. Blindness in part has happened to Israel until
 - 1. The word until tells us that there is limit, an end to the hardening of Israel.
 - 2. This is one of the mysteries of God.
 - a. So much so that throughout Christian history many Christians did not understand this.
 - b. They supposed that Israel had been forever set aside and that now that God would only deal with Gentiles.
 - c. But is not true and was never true, but with this passage how could great scholars like Luther and others miss it.
 - d. It is because a mystery will always be a mystery until God reveals it to us.

- B. Until when, the fulness of the Gentiles has come in.
 - 1. Great disagreement among scholars exists on this point.
 - 2. Most think that this means that there is a certain number of Gentiles to be saved and when that happens God will turn back to Israel.
 - 3. But I think that precludes the remnant principle.
 - a. That is there will always be Gentiles saved.
 - b. Else how could the blessing brought by Israel be a blessing to the Gentiles at that time.
 - 4. I agree with Donald Grey Barnhouse on this issue.
 - a. In the preceding verses, the prophet has traced the course of Gentile history as it will affect Israel and the Holy Land. The climax of this history will manifest itself in an unparalleled hatred of God and an attempt by an ungodly alliance to destroy Him and His people. The Gentiles will know God's judgment; Israel will know God's deliverance. *Donald Grey Barnhouse, Expositions of Bible Doctrines Taking the Epistle to the Romans As a Point of Departure – Volume 8: God's Covenants, (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1963), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 152.*
 - 5. I think this is what Jesus was referring to in Luke 21:24 “And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.
 - 6. It is also reflected in Revelation 11:2 “But leave out the court which is outside the temple, and do not measure it, for it has been given to the

Gentiles. And they will tread the holy city underfoot for forty-two months.

- C. The hardening of Israel was not just since the cross but we see it as God's judgment on Israel throughout their history.
 - 1. Deuteronomy 29:4 "Yet the LORD has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day.
 - 2. Isaiah 6:9 And He said, "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'
- D. But the time of the Gentiles is seen in the book of Daniel through the image of Nebuchadnezzar and covers the time from then to the return of Jesus Christ as described in Zechariah 12:10 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

III. All Israel will be saved.

- A. This is not speaking of a gradual even as what follows shows.
 - 1. *The Deliverer will come out of Zion*
 - a. Isaiah 59:20–21 (NKJV) 20 "The Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," Says the LORD.
 - 2. Christ will return as the deliverer of Israel and they will see the scars of Jesus and recognize Him as the Messiah they crucified and Israel will be reborn in a day.
 - 3. Isaiah 66:8 Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.
- B. During the tribulation period God will purge out those rebels.
 - 1. Ezekiel 20:33-38 (NKJV) 33 "As I live," says the Lord GOD, "surely with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out, I will rule over you. 34 I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand, with an outstretched arm, and with fury poured out. 35 And I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will plead My case with you face to face. 36 Just as I pleaded My case with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will plead My case with you," says the Lord GOD. 37 "I will make you pass under the rod, and I will bring you into the bond of the covenant; 38 I will purge the rebels from among you, and those who transgress against Me; I will bring them out of the country where they

dwell, but they shall not enter the land of Israel. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

- C. So all Israel will be saved by grace through faith.
 - 1. Hebrews 8:11 “None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them.
 - 2. Isaiah 11:9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.
 - 3. Habakkuk 2:14 For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.
- IV. He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob
 - A. Isaiah 60:21 (NKJV) 21 Also your people shall all be righteous; They shall inherit the land forever, The branch of My planting, The work of My hands, That I may be glorified.
 - B. Ezekiel 36:25–29 (NKJV) 25 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them. 28 Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God. 29 I will deliver you from all your uncleannesses. I will call for the grain and multiply it, and bring no famine upon you.
- V. For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins
 - A. Isaiah 59:21 “As for Me,” says the LORD, “this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants’ descendants,” says the LORD, “from this time and forevermore.”
 - B. Jeremiah 31:33–34 (NKJV) 33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Psalms 14:7 (NKJV) 7 Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the LORD brings back the captivity of His people, Let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.

Jeremiah 32:36–40 (NKJV) 36 “Now therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning this city of which you say, ‘It shall be delivered into the hand of the king of Babylon by the sword, by the famine, and by the pestilence: 37 Behold, I will gather them out of all countries where I have driven them in My anger, in My fury, and in great wrath; I will bring them back to this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely. 38 They shall be My people, and I will be their God; 39 then I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me forever, for the good of them and their children after them. 40 And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from doing them good; but I will put My fear in their hearts so that they will not depart from Me.

Jeremiah 16:14–16 (NKJV) 14 “Therefore behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “that it shall no more be said, ‘The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,’ 15 but, ‘The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.’ For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers. 16 “Behold, I will send for many fishermen,” says the LORD, “and they shall fish them; and afterward I will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain and every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.

Hosea 2:21–23 (NKJV) 21 “It shall come to pass in that day That I will answer,” says the LORD; “I will answer the heavens, And they shall answer the earth. 22 The earth shall answer With grain, With new wine, And with oil; They shall answer Jezreel. 23 Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, And I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; Then I will say to those who were not My people, ‘You are My people!’ And they shall say, ‘You are my God!’ ”

Zechariah 12–14. Special attention should be given to the last three chapters of Zechariah, which are presented as “an oracle” about the final days. The words “on that day,” which customarily refer to God’s final wrapping-up of history, including the last judgment, occur sixteen times and tie the chapters together. These chapters describe a time in which:

First, God will deliver Jerusalem from the nations of the earth, which are attacking her (12:1–9),

Second, the people will “look on ... the one they have pierced” and “mourn for him” (12:10–13),

Third, a “fountain” will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem “to cleanse them from sin and impurity” (13:1–3),

Fourth, the people will call on God, causing him to say, as in Hosea 2:23, “They are my people,” and the people to say, “The LORD is our God” (13:9),

Fifth, the Lord will descend on the Mount of Olives to save the people in a time of great trouble, deliver Jerusalem, and bring prosperity to the land (14:1–15),

Sixth, Gentiles will go to Jerusalem to worship God (14:16–19), and

Seventh, the people will become holy in all they are and do (14:20–21).

James Montgomery Boice, Romans: God and History, vol. 3 (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1991–), 1379–1380.

But it is the same for Christians. God is not mocked. If we disobey God’s Word and persist in going our own way, God will discipline us, gently if he can but also forcefully if he must. Many believers have been so disciplined. You may be one. Learn from it. You cannot fight against God successfully. *James Montgomery Boice, Romans: God and History, vol. 3 (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1991–), 1382.*

Hebrews 2:1–3 (NKJV) 1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

Isaiah 59:20-21 (NKJV) 20 “The Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob,” Says the LORD. 21 “As for Me,” says the LORD, “this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants’ descendants,” says the LORD, “from this time and forevermore.”